

DUPLICATE

RECEIVED TO 19 APR 2005

10/531919

The first Amendment under Article 34

(received on August 2, 2004)

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (amended) A backlight unit for illuminating an object to be illuminated using a plurality of light sources disposed directly below the object to be illuminated, wherein the backlight unit has a reflection portion for causing the light from the plurality of light sources to exit toward a certain direction, wherein the reflection portion comprises at least a first and a second reflection layers having a predetermined level of light reflectance and transmittance, wherein the reflection portion consists of a first region with the first

and second reflection layers being overlapped in the incident direction of light located at a position equivalent to the central portion on the surface to be illuminated of the object to be illuminated and a second region consisting of the first reflection layer only, and wherein brightness gradient is formed in the horizontal and vertical directions on the surface to be illuminated of the object to be illuminated by controlling reflectance of the reflection portion using the first region with relatively higher reflectance and the second region with lower reflectance than the first region.

9. (amended) A backlight unit for illuminating an object to be illuminated using a plurality of light sources disposed directly below the object to be illuminated, wherein the backlight unit has a reflection portion for causing the light from the plurality of light sources to exit toward a certain direction, wherein the reflection portion comprises at least a first and a second reflection layers having a predetermined level of light reflectance and transmittance, wherein the reflection portion consists of a first region with the first and second reflection layers being overlapped in the incident direction of light located at a position equivalent to the central portion in the horizontal direction on the surface to be illuminated of the object to be illuminated, and a second region consisting of the first reflection layer only located at the both ends, and wherein brightness gradient is formed

in the horizontal and vertical directions on the surface to be illuminated of the object to be illuminated by controlling reflectance of the reflection portion in the horizontal direction on the surface to be illuminated and also by making the brightness of the light sources located at the position equivalent to the central portion in the vertical direction on the surface to be illuminated relatively higher than the brightness of the light sources located at the both ends, using the first region with relatively higher reflectance and the second region with lower reflectance than the first region.

10. (amended) A backlight unit for illuminating an object to be illuminated using a plurality of light sources disposed directly below the object to be illuminated, wherein the backlight unit has a reflection portion for causing the light from the plurality of light sources to exit toward a certain direction, wherein the reflection portion comprises at least a first and a second reflection layers having a predetermined level of light reflectance and transmittance, wherein the reflection portion consists of a first region with the first and second reflection layers overlapped in the incident direction of light located at a position equivalent to the central portion in the vertical direction on the surface to be illuminated of the object to be illuminated and a second region consisting of the first reflection layer only located at the both ends, and wherein brightness gradient is formed

in the horizontal and vertical directions on the surface to be illuminated of the object to be illuminated by controlling reflectance of the reflection portion in the vertical direction on the surface to be illuminated and also by making the brightness of the light sources located at the position equivalent to the central portion in the horizontal direction on the surface to be illuminated relatively higher than the brightness of the light sources located at the both ends, using the first region with relatively higher reflectance and the second region with lower reflectance than the first region.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

**AMENDED SHEETS**

19. (canceled)

20. (amended) A backlight unit for illuminating an object to be illuminated using a plurality of light sources disposed directly below the object to be illuminated, wherein the plurality of light sources comprise LEDs, wherein brightness gradient is formed in the horizontal and vertical directions on the surface to be illuminated of the object to be illuminated by controlling radiation brightness or radiation wavelength of the LEDs in each of the regions formed on the substrate of the backlight unit.

21. The backlight unit of claim 20, wherein the brightness of the LEDs differs from each other in regions which are concentrically formed around the center of the substrate of the backlight unit.

22. (amended) A backlight unit for illuminating an object to be illuminated using a plurality of light sources disposed directly below the object to be illuminated, wherein the plurality of light sources comprise LEDs, wherein brightness gradient is formed in the horizontal and vertical directions on the surface to be illuminated of the object to be illuminated by controlling the surface density of the LEDs in each of the regions formed on the substrate of the backlight unit.

23. The backlight unit of claim 22, wherein the surface density of the LEDs differs from each other in regions which are concentrically formed around the center of the substrate of the backlight unit.

24. (amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising the backlight unit of any of claims 20 to 23 and a liquid crystal panel to be illuminated by the backlight unit.

25. (This claim was canceled in the Amendment under Article 19)

26. (This claim was canceled in the Amendment under Article 19)

27. (This claim was canceled in the Amendment under Article 19)

28. (This claim was canceled in the Amendment under Article 19)

29. (added) A backlight unit for illuminating an object to be illuminated using a plurality of light sources disposed directly below the object to be illuminated, wherein the backlight unit has a reflection portion for causing the light from the plurality of light sources to exit toward a certain direction, wherein the reflection portion comprises at least a first and a second reflection layers having a predetermined level of light reflectance and transmittance, wherein the

reflection portion consists of a first region with the first and second reflection layers being overlapped in the incident direction of light located at a position equivalent to the central portion in the horizontal direction on the surface to be illuminated of the object to be illuminated, and a second region consisting of the first reflection layer only located at the both ends, and wherein brightness gradient is formed in the horizontal and vertical directions on the surface to be illuminated of the object to be illuminated by controlling reflectance of the reflection portion in the horizontal direction on the surface to be illuminated and also by making the clearance of the light sources located at the position equivalent to the central portion in the vertical direction on the surface to be illuminated relatively smaller than the clearance of the light sources located at the both ends, using the first region with relatively higher reflectance and the second region with lower reflectance than the first region.

30. (added) A backlight unit for illuminating an object to be illuminated using a plurality of light sources disposed directly below the object to be illuminated, wherein the backlight unit has a reflection portion for causing the light from the plurality of light sources to exit toward a certain direction, wherein the reflection portion comprises at least a first and a second reflection layers having a predetermined level of light reflectance and transmittance, wherein the

reflection portion consists of a first region with the first and second reflection layers overlapped in the incident direction of light located at a position equivalent to the central portion in the vertical direction on the surface to be illuminated of the object to be illuminated and a second region consisting of the first reflection layer only located at the both ends, and wherein brightness gradient is formed in the horizontal and vertical directions on the surface to be illuminated of the object to be illuminated by controlling reflectance of the reflection portion in the vertical direction on the surface to be illuminated and also by making the clearance of the light sources located at the position equivalent to the central portion in the horizontal direction on the surface to be illuminated relatively smaller than the clearance of the light sources located at the both ends, using the first region with relatively higher reflectance and the second region with lower reflectance than the first region.

31. (added) A liquid crystal display device comprising the backlight unit of any of claims 8 to 10, 29 and 30 and a liquid crystal panel to be illuminated by the backlight unit.